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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I have been informed a petition has been made to take away access to critical unbundled network elements.

Taking away these elements would certainly reduce their competition, but such an action would very well lead to their becoming a monopoly.

Competition is what makes companies strive to do better. Consumers like myself have more affordable options because of this. Without competition, persons/families in lower income brackets might not be able to afford very necessary services.

Smaller companies need access to critical unbundled network elements to provide services that I consider necessities. It is essential for me and other like me to have these services at competitive prices.

I am a former customer of a large well-known internet/phone service provider and I know people who have services with them. Because of my own experiences with them and from what I have heard from others, Im glad we have other options. They overcharged people, broke agreements, and charged high prices. I cant imagine what they would be like without competition.

I fully support broadband competition and competitive deployment because I know these competing companies will only strive to provide quality service to people at competitive prices. Unfettered, big companies may charge customers higher prices with less quality. Also, many of these smaller competitive companies would likely go out of business. Where would their employees go?

I currently receive good internet access & phone service at an affordable price. Im certain these services are just as essential to others as they are for me.

We need access to these services so we can respond appropriately to emergency situations and to stay informed about the world around us. We use internet related services to communicate with those we care about, conduct business, pay our bills, monitor our investments, and a long list of

things too numerous to name.

Sure, our society is less than perfect, but supporting the petition would limit our freedom.

Sincerely,

Robert James